

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re U.S. Patent Application )

Applicant: Tanaka et al. )

CIP of Serial No. 09/809,475 )

Filed: March 15, 2001 )

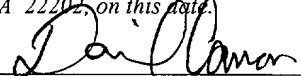
For: MAGNETO-OPTICAL )  
RECORDING MEDIUM )  
AND METHOD OF )  
REPRODUCING THE SAME )

Art Unit: 2652 )

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**Box Patent Application  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of this application and calculation of the filing fee, please  
amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 6, 12, 15 and 17 as follows:

6. (Amended) A magneto-optical recording medium as set forth in any  
one of claims 3 or 4, wherein a thickness of the mask layer is in the range of 3 to 67 % of a  
thickness of the reproduction layer.

TELETYPE UNIT

12. (Amended) A magneto-optical recording medium as set forth in claim 11, wherein the mask layer is made of GdFeCo in which Gd is contained in the range of 26 to 30 atom% and Co is contained in the range of 20 to 30 atom%.

15. (Amended) A magneto-optical recording medium as set forth in any one of claims 11 or 12, further comprising a magnetic layer which has a direction of easy magnetization extending in an in-plane direction at room temperature and is exchanged-coupled to the mask layer.

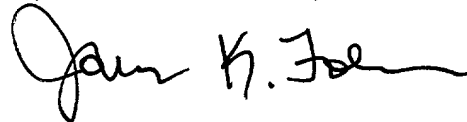
17. (Amended) A magneto-optical recording medium as set forth in any one of claims 11 or 12, wherein three magnetic layers including the mask layer, the reproduction layer and the intermediate layer each contain Gd.

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request these claims be considered with the examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE****In the Claims:**

Claims 6, 12, 15 and 17 were amended as follows:

6. (Amended) A magneto-optical recording medium as set forth in any one of claims 3 [to 5,] or 4, wherein a thickness of the mask layer is in the range of 3 to 67 % of a thickness of the reproduction layer.

12. (Amended) A magneto-optical recording medium as set forth in claim [1,] 11, wherein the mask layer is made of GdFeCo in which Gd is contained in the range of 26 to 30 atom% and Co is contained in the range of 20 to 30 atom%.

15. (Amended) A magneto-optical recording medium as set forth in any one of claims 11 [to 14,] or 12, further comprising a magnetic layer which has a direction of easy magnetization extending in an in-plane direction at room temperature and is exchanged-coupled to the mask layer.

17. (Amended) A magneto-optical recording medium as set forth in any one of claims 11 [to 16,] or 12, wherein three magnetic layers including the mask layer, the reproduction layer and the intermediate layer each contain Gd.